

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NIC-01 IO-10 ACDA-05 SAJ-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 BIB-01 /084 W

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R 121711Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8641

INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 04096

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, GW

SUBJECT: FRG RELATIONS WITH POLAND

REF: (A) BONN 3872; (B) WARSAW 1384

SUMMARY: THE RESUMPTION OF TALKS ON A LUMP-SUM PENSIONS
PAYMENT BY THE FRG TO POLAND OFFERS POSSIBILITIES FOR A
SETTLEMENT OF POLISH COMPENSATION CLAIMS. THIS WILL ONLY
WORK, HOWEVER, IF THE POLES ADOPT A MORE FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE
TOWARD EMIGRATION OF ETHNIC GERMANS. END SUMMARY.
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1. AS INDICATED IN REFTEL (A), AN FRG LABOR MINISTRY DELEGATION IS TRAVELLING TO WARSAW ON MARCH 12 TO RESUME TALKS ON A LUMP-SUM PENSIONS PAYMENT BY THE FRG TO POLAND. ACCOMPANYING THE DELEGATION WILL BE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S POLISH DESK OFFICER, DR. ARNOT, WHO EXPECTS THAT AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED IN THIS ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ON MOST IF NOT ALL OF THE TECHNICAL ISSUES INVOLVED. A SUBSEQUENT SESSION IN BONN, FOR WHICH NO DATE HAS YET BEEN SET, WOULD THEN HAVE TO ADDRESS THE ISSUE OF THE AMOUNT OF THE LUMP-SUM PAYMENT AS WELL AS WHETHER AND HOW IT CAN BE USED TO SATISFY POLISH REQUIREMENTS FOR INDEMNIFICATION OF POLISH VICTIMS OF NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS AND FORCED LABOR PRACTICES.

2. THE PRESENT SITUATION, AS FONOFF SOURCES DESCRIBE IT TO US, IS AS FOLLOWS: THE POLES, AS LONG AGO AS LAST FALL, INDICATED THEIR READINESS IN PRINCIPLE TO USE THE LUMP-SUM PENSIONS PAYMENT AS A VEHICLE FOR COMPENSATION. THE GERMANS MADE CLEAR THAT THEY HAD SOME FLEXIBILITY WITH REGARD TO THE AMOUNT. THE POLES--OUR SOURCE DID NOT SPECIFY JUST WHEN OR THROUGH WHAT CHANNEL--LET IT BE KNOWN THAT THEY COULD PROBABLY ACCEPT A GLOBAL PAYMENT OF DM 1.3 BILLION, OF WHICH THEY WOULD REGARD DM 600 MILLION AS BEING FOR PENSIONS, THE REMAINING DM 700 MILLION TO CONSTITUTE COMPENSATION. (ALL OF THIS WOULD OF COURSE BE IN ADDITION TO THE PROPOSED DM 1 BILLION CREDIT ON CONCESSIONAL TERMS.) THE POLES HAVE SHOWN NO WILLINGNESS TO CONNECT THIS WITH GREATER FLEXIBILITY ON EMIGRATION OF ETHNIC GERMANS.

3. SINCE THE TURN OF THE YEAR, OUR SOURCE NOTED, THE POLES HAVE CARRIED ON, BOTH THROUGH DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS AND IN THE POLISH PRESS, A CAMPAIGN OF CRITICISM OF THE FRG WHICH MADE FURTHER PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE. THE FONOFF THOUGHT THIS CAMPAIGN HAD BEEN DELIBERATELY INITIATED BY REMARKS WHICH GIEREK MADE IN JANUARY. IT WAS FUELED BY REPORTS THAT THE FRG WAS CONTEMPLATING A DM 600 MILLION PAYMENT TO NAHUM GOLDMANN'S "JEWISH CLAIMS COMMITTEE" AND PROBABLY ALSO BY THE CONTROVERSY IN THE FRG OVER WHETHER TO PUBLISH A CONFIDENTIAL

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DOCUMENTATION OF WAR CRIMES COMMITTED AGAINST GERMANS IN EASTERN EUROPE. ALTHOUGH THE ORCHESTRATED POLISH EFFORT DESCRIBED IN REFTEL (B) WOULD SEEM TO BELIEVE ANY SUCH ASSUMPTION, THE GERMANS BELIEVE THAT THERE HAS RECENTLY BEEN A SLACKENING OF THE POLISH CAMPAIGN AND THEY TAKE THIS AS AN INDICATION THAT THE POLES ARE NOW PREPARED TO TALK SERIOUSLY AGAIN. AS A DEMONSTRATION OF GOOD WILL ON THE GERMAN SIDE, FONOFF MINISTER OF STATE

WISCHNEWSKI MADE A PUBLIC STATEMENT ON MARCH 8 IN WHICH HE STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF AN FRG-POLISH UNDERSTANDING FOR THE FUTURE OF "COOPERATION IN EUROPE" AND IN WHICH HE STATED EXPLICITLY THAT THE PROJECTED AGREEMENT ON PENSIONS PAYMENTS COULD SERVE "INDIRECTLY" TO SETTLE THE MATTER OF COMPENSATION. AT THE SAME TIME, HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE ISSUE OF EMIGRATION OF ETHNIC GERMANS WOULD HAVE TO BE SETTLED "COMPREHENSIVELY".

4. OUR FONOFF SOURCE SAID THAT A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT, IN THE GERMAN VIEW, WOULD CONTINUE TO INVOLVE A POLISH COMMITMENT TO PERMIT THE EMIGRATION OF AT LEAST

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150,000 ETHNIC GERMANS. IF SUCH A COMMITMENT WERE FORTHCOMING, THE FRG COULD PROBABLY INCREASE ITS OFFER FOR THE LUMP-SUM PAYMENT TO SUBSTANTIALLY MORE THAN THE DM 500 MILLION WHICH IS ALREADY ON THE TABLE. JUST WHAT THE NEW OFFER MIGHT BE OUR SOURCE COULD NOT SAY. APPARENTLY THE FONOFF HAS NOT YET MADE ANY CONTINGENCY PROPOSALS TO THE CHANCELLERY OR FINANCE MINISTRY.

5. COMMENT: THERE CONTINUE TO BE PRESS REPORTS,
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CONFIRMED IN A GENERAL WAY BY OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH FONOFF REPS, THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER TAKES A SPECIAL INTEREST IN THE POLISH MATTER AND WANTS TO FIND A GENEROUS SOLUTION IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. THE PERSONAL ENGAGEMENT OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER MAY HELP TO EXPLAIN WHY THERE SEEMS TO BE A SLIGHTLY MORE OPTIMISTIC FEELING IN THE FONOFF NOW THAT TALKS ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN AGAIN. BUT IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO PREDICT A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS SO LONG AS THE FINANCIAL QUESTIONS REMAIN OPEN ON THE FRG SIDE AND SO LONG AS THE POLES CONTINUE TO STONE-WALL ON THE EMIGRATION ISSUE. THE LATTER IS A POLITICAL MUST FOR THE GERMANS AND NO GOVERNMENT IN BONN COULD AFFORD TO MAKE SUBSTANTIAL PAYMENTS TO POLAND UNTIL IT IS SETTLED.
HILLENBRAND

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